



TOPOFF 4 – Arizona

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Top Officials Exercise (TOPOFF) is a congressionally-mandated two-year cycle of seminars, planning events, and exercises designed to strengthen the nation's capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from large-scale terrorist attacks. The cycle culminates in a full-scale exercise that simulates a coordinated terrorist attack involving weapons of mass destruction.

TOPOFF 4 Arizona: A Snapshot

- Arizona is one of three domestic venues selected to participate in the TOPOFF 4 exercise the week of Oct. 15-19, 2007. Phoenix is the site for the exercise in Arizona.
- Arizona hosts the Super Bowl in February 2008, marking the first time since TOPOFF's inception that a state participates in advance of hosting a major event.
- Arizona is the first state to participate in TOPOFF on a functional level.
- Arizona, the first state to implement the Department of Homeland Security's private sector involvement of the Business Operations Center, also is the first to utilize a Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) in exercise play. A TLO is a first responder Police Officer or Firefighter with specialized training in terrorism.
- TOPOFF 4 provides an opportunity to evaluate the ability of officials in state, county, local and tribal jurisdictions, as well as private sector partners, in coordinating emergency response functions to address casualties and widespread radiological contamination in a populous area.
- Simulated TOPOFF events for Arizona are designed to escalate activities to overwhelm local and state resources, requiring the federal government's intervention.
- The exercise takes place across five counties and three tribal entities.
- Arizona's exercise tests the ability of state and local government officials in planning for and responding to a Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD), or "dirty bomb" attack.

TOPOFF 4 Arizona: Exercise Objectives

- **Incident Management:** Demonstrate interoperability communications at the local, county, state and federal levels.
- **Intelligence Management:** Assess homeland security intelligence distribution process used among federal, state and local authorities to prevent and deter a terrorist attack.
- **Public Messaging and Information:** Assess the public information flow process and the Arizona 211 Emergency Bulletins System during a terrorist attack.
- **Emergency Operations Plans:** Demonstrate the ability to direct and control emergency operations at the local, county and state Emergency Operation Centers.
- **Recovery:** Demonstrate the ability of local, county, state, tribal and federal agencies and the private sector to recover from a terrorist attack.
- **Effectiveness:** Demonstrate the ability to determine and implement protective action decisions at the local, county, state and federal levels.

At-A-Glance

The simulated attack involves the detonation of a Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD), causing casualties and widespread contamination in a populous area, with short- and long-term impacts.

Specifically, the exercise tests:

- Inter-agency preparedness and response plans to terrorist-generated RDD
- Evacuation/shelter in place considerations
- Ability to provide decontamination and mass care of victims
- Search and rescue operations
- Ability to conduct criminal and environmental investigations
- Large-scale recovery and remediation issues for populous areas